

Broadband over powerline (BPL) technology, or powerline carrier (PLC) communication, has been shown to cause significant radiofrequency interference in the high frequency (HF) portion of the spectrum used by amateur radio operators. Amateur radio constitutes a distributed wireless network of voice and digital communications. The amateur service predates DARPA net and the internet, and constitutes greater than 600,000 "nodes", most of which maintain some kind of back-up power capability that does not depend on the power grid. As a result, the amateur service is highly resilient to both natural and man-made disaster, as has been demonstrated on many occasions since its inception. The argument that BPL would enhance homeland security by providing wider access to broadband internet must be offset by considering BPL's deleterious effects on the amateur service. In times of emergency, powerline transmission has typically been less robust and more sensitive to failure than the amateur service. Anyone who has experienced a power outage as the result of a severe weather event understands the vulnerability of our power grid. Relying on the power grid for **both** power and access to information in times of emergency does not seem prudent, especially if the technology for doing so degrades the performance of another network.